

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; requiring every public  
3           school to designate lead teachers in certain subject areas  
4           to train and mentor teachers at their respective schools;  
5           requiring school districts to appoint master trainers in  
6           certain subject areas; requiring the Department of  
7           Education to offer training and provide certain  
8           information electronically; requiring the State Board of  
9           Education to adopt rules relating to certain  
10          qualifications for certification; establishing priorities  
11          for mentoring; requiring school districts to provide  
12          written statements regarding liability insurance coverage;  
13          requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
14          Government Accountability to study teacher preparation  
15          programs and submit a report; requiring teacher  
16          preparation programs to offer certain options; amending s.  
17          1001.51, F.S.; permitting district school superintendents  
18          to directly dismiss administrative personnel; amending s.  
19          1004.04, F.S., relating to public accountability and state  
20          approval for teacher preparation programs; requiring  
21          programs to incorporate instruction regarding gifted and  
22          academically talented student identification and  
23          placement; requiring the department to establish an  
24          electronic reporting system for approved teacher  
25          preparation programs; permitting persons who are eligible  
26          to participate as a mentor in the Dale Hickam Excellent  
27          Teaching Program to supervise or direct teacher  
28          preparation students during field experience courses or

29 | internships; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.; requiring  
 30 | postsecondary educator preparation institutes to guarantee  
 31 | the quality of graduates; requiring institutes to provide  
 32 | additional training to educators who fail to demonstrate  
 33 | certain essential skills at no cost to the educator or  
 34 | employer; amending s. 1012.32, F.S.; permitting background  
 35 | screenings of individuals participating in student  
 36 | teaching to be transferred among districts; amending s.  
 37 | 1012.56, F.S.; revising acceptable means of demonstrating  
 38 | mastery of general knowledge for educator certification;  
 39 | requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
 40 | Government Accountability to study teacher retention rates  
 41 | and submit a report; amending s. 1009.59, F.S.; requiring  
 42 | applicants for the Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan  
 43 | Forgiveness Program to commit to teaching for 3 years in a  
 44 | critical teacher shortage subject area; amending s.  
 45 | 1012.986, F.S.; providing recognition and mentoring  
 46 | opportunities for high-performing principals; providing an  
 47 | effective date.

48 |  
 49 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 51 | Section 1. Lead teachers and master trainers.--

52 | (1) Each school district shall require every public school  
 53 | in that district to designate a lead teacher in the subject  
 54 | areas of reading, mathematics, social studies, and science. Each  
 55 | lead teacher shall attend periodic training provided by the  
 56 | district master trainers on the latest research regarding

57 effective teaching methodologies, techniques, and skills,  
58 including use of information technology; advancements in  
59 curricula; cross-curricula training strategies; and student  
60 motivation and management. Lead teachers shall train and mentor  
61 teachers at their respective schools in their respective subject  
62 areas.

63 (2) Each school district shall appoint master trainers who  
64 must be specialists in reading, mathematics, social studies, or  
65 science and in techniques for using information technology to  
66 teach the subject area. The master trainers must train the lead  
67 teachers and provide onsite training for schools needing  
68 additional assistance, particularly schools graded "D" or "F."

69 (3) The Department of Education shall offer a 3-day summer  
70 academy for master trainers. Training shall include information  
71 regarding the latest research on effective teaching  
72 methodologies, techniques, and skills, including use of  
73 information technology; advancements in curricula; cross-  
74 curricula training strategies; and student motivation and  
75 management.

76 (4) The Department of Education shall make electronically  
77 available to all teachers the latest updated information  
78 regarding their subject areas and teaching advancements.

79 Section 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
80 contrary, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules that:

81 (1) Allow the military occupational specialty designation  
82 for instruction to be used as verification of instructional  
83 experience for purposes of teacher certification.

84           (2) Count credit granted by the American Council for  
85 Education the same as college credit for purposes of teacher  
86 certification.

87           (3) Allow military personnel to use proof of completion of  
88 Defense Language Institute training to demonstrate subject area  
89 competence in the critical shortage area of foreign language.

90           Section 3. Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to  
91 the contrary, the first priority for the use of the time  
92 required of teachers who have achieved certification by the  
93 National Board of Professional Teaching Standards for mentoring  
94 or related services shall be to provide such services to  
95 beginning teachers, teachers in need of improvement, and  
96 candidates enrolled in teacher preparation programs, including  
97 educator preparation institutes.

98           Section 4. School district insurance coverage  
99 statement.--Each school district shall provide to all covered  
100 instructional personnel a written statement explaining the  
101 liability insurance coverage that the district provides such  
102 personnel. The statement must be concise, written in lay  
103 language, and distributed to covered instructional personnel  
104 separate from any other information they may otherwise receive  
105 from the district. The statement must include a clear  
106 explanation of the scope of the coverage and a reference to and  
107 discussion of the existing laws that protect teachers and  
108 principals from liability. The statement must be provided to and  
109 discussed with covered personnel at all annual orientations  
110 provided by the school district as well as posted on the school  
111 district's website.

112           Section 5. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
113 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study to  
114 identify teacher preparation programs that are most effective at  
115 producing new teachers who are employed in Florida public K-12  
116 classrooms. The study must:

117           (1) Analyze the rates at which students complete teacher  
118 preparation programs in order to examine the productivity of  
119 these programs;

120           (2) Follow one or more cohorts of teacher preparation  
121 program completers from universities, community colleges,  
122 educator preparation institutes, and district alternative  
123 certification programs to determine the proportion of graduates  
124 who enter classroom teaching; and

125           (3) Follow one or more cohorts of newly employed Florida  
126 K-12 classroom teachers to determine how long they remain in the  
127 classroom and whether teachers who remain in the classroom are  
128 more likely to be products of certain teacher preparation  
129 programs.

130

131 The number of cohorts shall be determined by OPPAGA based on the  
132 research needs of the project. A report shall be submitted to  
133 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
134 Representatives by February 1, 2008.

135           Section 6. Each institution that offers state-approved  
136 teacher preparation programs shall make options available to  
137 students to pursue a teacher preparation program comprised of 3  
138 years of coursework followed by a 1-year paid residency or  
139 internship with opportunities for students to participate in

140 classroom experiences each year of the program and specify such  
141 options in a report to the President of the Senate and the  
142 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report shall be  
143 submitted annually no later than February 1 and may be used to  
144 develop a performance funding model for approved teacher  
145 education programs.

146 Section 7. Subsection (7) of section 1001.51, Florida  
147 Statutes, is amended to read:

148 1001.51 Duties and responsibilities of district school  
149 superintendent.--The district school superintendent shall  
150 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below and  
151 elsewhere in the law, provided that, in so doing, he or she  
152 shall advise and counsel with the district school board. The  
153 district school superintendent shall perform all tasks necessary  
154 to make sound recommendations, nominations, proposals, and  
155 reports required by law to be acted upon by the district school  
156 board. All such recommendations, nominations, proposals, and  
157 reports by the district school superintendent shall be either  
158 recorded in the minutes or shall be made in writing, noted in  
159 the minutes, and filed in the public records of the district  
160 school board. It shall be presumed that, in the absence of the  
161 record required in this section, the recommendations,  
162 nominations, and proposals required of the district school  
163 superintendent were not contrary to the action taken by the  
164 district school board in such matters.

165 (7) PERSONNEL.--Be responsible, as required herein, for  
166 directing the work of the personnel, subject to the requirements  
167 of chapter 1012. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to

168 the contrary, a district school superintendent may directly  
 169 dismiss administrative personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(3)(a)  
 170 and (b).

171 Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), paragraph (b)  
 172 of subsection (5), and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of  
 173 section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

174 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 175 teacher preparation programs.--

176 (3) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.--A system  
 177 developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with  
 178 postsecondary educational institutions shall assist departments  
 179 and colleges of education in the restructuring of their programs  
 180 in accordance with this section to meet the need for producing  
 181 quality teachers now and in the future.

182 (c) State-approved teacher preparation programs must  
 183 incorporate:

184 1. Appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages  
 185 instruction so that program graduates will have completed the  
 186 requirements for teaching limited English proficient students in  
 187 Florida public schools.

188 2. Scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading  
 189 literacy and computational skills instruction so that program  
 190 graduates will be able to provide the necessary academic  
 191 foundations for their students at whatever grade levels they  
 192 choose to teach.

193 3. Gifted and academically talented student identification  
 194 and placement instruction so that program graduates will be able  
 195 to identify gifted and academically talented students in the

196 elementary grades and provide these students with accelerated  
197 learning opportunities throughout their academic careers that  
198 allow them to work at suitably challenging levels.

199 (5) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.--Notwithstanding  
200 subsection (4), failure by a public or nonpublic teacher  
201 preparation program to meet the criteria for continued program  
202 approval shall result in loss of program approval. The  
203 Department of Education, in collaboration with the departments  
204 and colleges of education, shall develop procedures for  
205 continued program approval that document the continuous  
206 improvement of program processes and graduates' performance.

207 (b) Additional criteria for continued program approval for  
208 public institutions may be approved by the State Board of  
209 Education. Such criteria must emphasize instruction in classroom  
210 management and must provide for the evaluation of the teacher  
211 candidates' performance in this area. The criteria shall also  
212 require instruction in working with underachieving students.  
213 Program evaluation procedures must include, but are not limited  
214 to, program graduates' satisfaction with instruction and the  
215 program's responsiveness to local school districts. Additional  
216 criteria for continued program approval for nonpublic  
217 institutions shall be developed in the same manner as for public  
218 institutions; however, such criteria must be based upon  
219 significant, objective, and quantifiable graduate performance  
220 measures. Responsibility for collecting data on outcome measures  
221 through survey instruments and other appropriate means shall be  
222 shared by the postsecondary educational institutions and the  
223 Department of Education. By January 1 of each year, the



224 Department of Education shall report this information for each  
 225 postsecondary educational institution that has state-approved  
 226 programs of teacher education to the Governor, the State Board  
 227 of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the President of  
 228 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, all  
 229 Florida postsecondary teacher preparation programs, and  
 230 interested members of the public. This report must analyze the  
 231 data and make recommendations for improving teacher preparation  
 232 programs in the state. By August 1, 2008, the Department of  
 233 Education shall establish an electronic reporting system by  
 234 which all institutions with programs approved under this section  
 235 shall report data required for continued approval. The system  
 236 must be linked to the K-20 Education Data Warehouse and provide  
 237 institutions with a means of reviewing and utilizing data for  
 238 purposes of continuous program improvement. The system must also  
 239 align data elements to allow for comparison of performance  
 240 outcomes common to programs approved under this section and  
 241 other types of approved teacher preparation programs in this  
 242 state.

243 (6) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.--All postsecondary  
 244 instructors, school district personnel and instructional  
 245 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel  
 246 through preservice field experience courses and internships  
 247 shall meet special requirements. District school boards are  
 248 authorized to pay student teachers during their internships.

249 (b) All school district personnel and instructional  
 250 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students  
 251 during field experience courses or internships must have

252 evidence of "clinical educator" training or eligibility for  
253 participation as a mentor in the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching  
254 Program pursuant to s. 1012.72 and must successfully demonstrate  
255 effective classroom management strategies that consistently  
256 result in improved student performance. The State Board of  
257 Education shall approve the training requirements.

258 Section 9. Subsections (4) through (7) of section 1004.85,  
259 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through (8),  
260 respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section  
261 to read:

262 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.--

263 (4) Each educator preparation institute shall guarantee  
264 the high quality of its graduates during the first 2 years  
265 immediately following graduation from the program or following  
266 initial certification, whichever occurs first. Any educator in a  
267 Florida school who fails to demonstrate the essential skills  
268 specified in s. 1004.04(5)(e) shall be provided additional  
269 training by the educator preparation institute at no expense to  
270 the educator or the employer. Such training must consist of an  
271 individualized plan agreed upon by the school district and the  
272 educator preparation institute that includes specific learning  
273 outcomes. The educator preparation institute assumes no  
274 responsibility for the educator's employment contract with the  
275 employer. Employer satisfaction shall be determined by an  
276 annually administered survey instrument approved by the  
277 Department of Education that measures, at a minimum, employer  
278 satisfaction with the ability of graduates to demonstrate the  
279 essential skills specified in s. 1004.04(5)(e).

280 Section 10. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
 281 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

282 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.--

283 (2)

284 (d) Individuals ~~Student teachers, persons~~ participating in  
 285 student teaching a field experience pursuant to s. 1004.04(6) or  
 286 s. 1004.85, and persons participating in a short-term experience  
 287 as a teacher assistant pursuant to s. 1004.04(10) in any  
 288 district school system, lab school, or charter school shall,  
 289 upon engagement to provide services, undergo background  
 290 screening as required under s. 1012.56. Such screening may be  
 291 transferred from one school district to another school district.

292  
 293 Fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law  
 294 Enforcement for state processing and to the Federal Bureau of  
 295 Investigation for federal processing. Persons subject to this  
 296 subsection found through fingerprint processing to have been  
 297 convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude shall not be  
 298 employed, engaged to provide services, or serve in any position  
 299 requiring direct contact with students. Probationary persons  
 300 subject to this subsection terminated because of their criminal  
 301 record have the right to appeal such decisions. The cost of the  
 302 background screening may be borne by the district school board,  
 303 the charter school, the employee, the contractor, or a person  
 304 subject to this subsection.

305 Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 1012.56, Florida  
 306 Statutes, is amended to read:

307 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

308 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable means of  
 309 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

310 (a) Achievement of passing scores on basic skills  
 311 examination required by state board rule for persons seeking  
 312 initial certification before July 1, 2009;

313 (b) Achievement of passing scores on an examination that  
 314 demonstrates mastery of a college-level general education  
 315 curriculum required by state board rule for persons seeking  
 316 initial certification on or after July 1, 2009 ~~the College Level~~  
 317 ~~Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;~~

318 (c) A valid professional standard teaching certificate  
 319 issued by another state;

320 (d) A valid certificate issued by the National Board for  
 321 Professional Teaching Standards or a national educator  
 322 credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education; or

323 (e) Documentation of two semesters of successful teaching  
 324 in a community college, state university, or private college or  
 325 university that awards an associate or higher degree and is an  
 326 accredited institution or an institution of higher education  
 327 identified by the Department of Education as having a quality  
 328 program.

329 Section 12. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
 330 Government Accountability shall conduct a study of teacher  
 331 retention rates for each school district. The study shall report  
 332 and analyze the teacher retention rates for each school district  
 333 and each school within the district. The study shall also report  
 334 and analyze the retention rates for new teachers. Teacher  
 335 retention rates shall be disaggregated to include ethnicity,

336 age, subject area, and grade level. A report shall be submitted  
 337 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
 338 Representatives by March 1, 2008.

339 Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 1009.59, Florida  
 340 Statutes, is amended to read:

341 1009.59 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness  
 342 Program.--

343 (1) The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness  
 344 Program is established to encourage qualified personnel to seek  
 345 employment in subject areas in which critical teacher shortages  
 346 exist, as identified annually by the State Board of Education.  
 347 The primary function of the program is to make repayments toward  
 348 student loans received ~~by students~~ from federal programs or  
 349 commercial lending institutions for the support of postsecondary  
 350 education study. Repayments are ~~intended~~ to be made to qualified  
 351 applicants who are ~~begin~~ teaching for the first time in  
 352 designated subject areas, ~~and~~ who apply during their first year  
 353 of teaching as certified teachers in those ~~these~~ subject areas,  
 354 and who commit in writing to teach in the designated subject  
 355 areas for a minimum of 3 years.

356 Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 1012.986, Florida  
 357 Statutes, is amended to read:

358 1012.986 William Cecil Golden Professional Development  
 359 Program for School Leaders.--

360 (1) There is established the William Cecil Golden  
 361 Professional Development Program for School Leaders to provide  
 362 high standards and sustained support for principals as  
 363 instructional leaders. The program shall consist of a

364 collaborative network of state and national professional  
365 leadership organizations working together to respond to  
366 instructional leadership needs throughout the state. The network  
367 shall support the human-resource development needs of  
368 principals, principal leadership teams, and candidates for  
369 principal leadership positions using the framework of leadership  
370 standards adopted by the State Board of Education, the Southern  
371 Regional Education Board, and the National Staff Development  
372 Council. The goals ~~goal~~ of the network leadership program are ~~is~~  
373 to:

374 (a) Provide resources to support and enhance the  
375 principal's role as the instructional leader.

376 (b) Maintain a clearinghouse and disseminate data-  
377 supported information related to enhanced student achievement,  
378 based on educational research and best practices.

379 (c) Build the capacity for increasing ~~to increase~~ the  
380 quality of programs for preservice education for aspiring  
381 principals and inservice professional development for principals  
382 and principal leadership teams.

383 (d) Support best teaching and research-based instructional  
384 practices through dissemination and modeling at the preservice  
385 and inservice levels for both teachers who are aspiring school  
386 leaders and principals.

387 (e) Recognize high-performing principals, including those  
388 who excel in instructional leadership, and provide opportunities  
389 for these individuals to serve as mentors in this program.

390 Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.